Linkage of Iron-ore reserves

2960. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN :
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to award linkage of iron-ore reserves to domestic companies like Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and others; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) In terms of provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, State Governments may grant mineral concessions including mining lease (ML) to any Indian national, or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 for exploration and exploitation of minerals. Prior approval of Central Government is mandatory in respect of minerals included in the First Schedule of the MMDR ACT, 1957. Iron ore is one of the minerals included in the First Schedule of the Act. At present, no proposal has been received for seeking prior approval of Central Government for grant of mining lease of iron ore in favour of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL).

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Reorganisation of Geological Suvery of India

2961. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geological Survey of India is to be decentralized into seven